

June 25, 1971

Mr. Julian Goodman
President, National Broadcasting Company
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Goodman:

Your interview with Jerry Ray aired on this morning's "Today" show is a welcome mention of the fact that questions still exist in the most costly crime in history. Your treatment of both James and Jerry was fair. Where you were unfair is in your non-treatment of me and mine, the only book, the only thing, raising the questions some of which you aired.

This is not innocent. "Today" has steadfastly refused to air me in any aspect of the political assassinations although once, in apparent embarrassment, offering to present me on something else. That offer I declined because I do not seek publicity per se. "Today" has had my FRAME-UP for months. You refused to touch it firsthand. Your Washington bureau chief and others had it, including a number of copies I had to buy to provide. The evidence that establishes a conspiracy is evidence that, to NBC's knowledge, I developed, including by an unreported "Freedom of Information" suit, ending in an also-unreported summary judgment in my favor.

In your reporting days in Washington, how many summary judgments did you know to have been issued against the Department of Justice by a federal court? None of this is news? The confiscation of court records by the Department of Justice, established by me and known to NBC, is not news?

I am sure Jerry told Paul Cunningham as he has told everyone else, including me, that the one thing James never discusses is the facts of the case. Without exception, everything Jerry said is not his personal knowledge and does come from my book. Moreover, he wrote me after the interview, reported asking Cunningham to see me on his way back to New York, having told him of my work, and Cunningham's refusal.

This major media making of policy decisions on what is news, this boycotting of news and people in and making it for petty reasons, is an abdication of both responsibilities and integrity. At some point I hope all, but especially those executives in it with working-news backgrounds like you, will face their records and their responsibilities and treat the political assassinations as they do other news.

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I have met my end of our responsibilities by keeping your people fully informed despite my experiences with your net and knowing full well that there is this boycott. It has been made only too clear. I do hope that at some point this essential part of the functioning of a representative society, the news media, will become something less than an unofficial arm of government, its own kind of instrument of suppression.

My offers to your people include access to the results of my investigations after completion of the book. If NBC has the courage for real reporting, I have and can provide what is close to totally exculpatory evidence, have the witnesses on tape, official documents and other evidence of unquestionable nature.

On any other news subject, is there any possibility your people would not at least look?

Until the current efforts to continue to suppress the Vietnam news, when the government hauled the media into court, I alone among writers was fighting the legal battle for "freedom of information." It was, in fact, my case of three days earlier that gave the judge in The Washington Post case his immediate background on this problem - as your people also know. Again, not news? The government protests that the media should use the law and then violates it when a writer seeks to use it and this is not worth reporting?

I will continue to offer to background your people, because that is my part of the responsibilities a writer bears in a society such as ours. Perhaps, some day, you will surmount your hangups. My offers of confidential access, entirely unlimited otherwise, are unchanged by your today's mistreatment. I do think that, if not accepted, the day will come when many of you will be ashamed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg